(b) if so, whether any progress has been made in this regard, and

(c) whether Government propose to exercise overall control over the type of research to be carried on in this Centre?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir A meeting of the Ministerial Level Plenipotentiary Committee under the auspices of the UNIDO decided to set up the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB) in two components, one in New Delhi, India and the other in Trieste, Italy The New Delhi component would be set up on the basis of the Indian offer made at that meeting. Accordingly suitable laboratory facilities would be built and provided by Govt. of India Interim laboratory facilities are also to be provided in the meantime. Activities in this regard are likely to be commenced by UNIDO/ICGEB after the formal agreement is signed between the Government of India and UNIDO on the basic terms and conditions governing the UNIDO Project envisaged by the interim programme for the ICGEB.

(c) Since the ICGEB is an international institution, the question of any single country having overall control over the type of research to be carried on in this Centre does not arise.

Impact of the Lok Adalats on the disposal of Court cases

†290 SHRI KAPIL VERMA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have assessed the impact of Lok Adalats on the speedy disposal of pending cases and in the clearing of arrears of court cases; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to give the Lok Adalats a definite shape by holding regular Lok Adalats frequently to clear the pending arrears of court cases?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING, THE MINISTER OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR): (a) No formal assessment of the impact of Lok Adalats on the speedy disposal of pending cases and in the clearing of arrears of court cases has been made by the Central Government. However, from the reports compiled by the Committee for Implementing Legal Aid Schemes on the basis of reports from the various State Legal Aid and Advice Boards, it is evident that Lok Adalats have gained considerable popularity and that they have been instrumental in the quick disposal of cases.

As per information available with the Committee for Implementing Legal Aid Schemes, so far 1388 Lok Adalats have been organised at which over 8,28,870 cases have been settled.

(b) The Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 (39 of 1987) places the Lok Adalats on a statutory footing. Upon the entry into force of this Act, Lok Adalats will be organised as required by the Act.

Guidelines for appointments of Judges

*291 SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the item 'Judges shuffling the Pack' in India Today of November 15, 1987;

(b) if so, what are the guidelines for appointing the Chief Justices and the Judges in the Supreme Court and High Courts;

(c) whether these guidelines were violated in recent appointments; and